Iowa Judicial Branch State Court Administration

State Court Administrator **Todd Nuccio**

Executive Assistant

Tina Schweitzer

Deputy State Court Administrator

John Goerdt

Director of Iowa Children's Justice

Kathy Thompson

State-Wide Problem Solving Coordinator

Dr. Eric Howard

Director of Iowa Accountability Program

Kimberly Baxter

Director of Special Crimes Against Persons Program

Becky Kinnamon

Director of Juvenile Court Services

Chad Jensen

Research, Policy and Planning Analyst

Ross Loder

Director of Judicial Education and Training

Kim Carson

Director of Finance

Kent Farver

Director of State Facilities

Jim Evans

Director of Information Technology

Mark Headlee

Director of Governmental Affairs

Caitlin Jarzen

Legal Counsel to State Court Administrator

Elaine Newell

<u>Director of Human</u> Resources

Todd Sadler

State Court Administrator Field Liaison

Scott Ruhnke

Deputy State Court Administrator

Areas of Responsibility

- Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission
- Advisor on ADA services
- Supervision of the Director of Juvenile Court Services
- Supervision of the Research, Policy and Planning Analyst
- Supervision of directors of federal grants: Juvenile Court Improvement Project; Family Treatment Courts Project; Drug and Problem Solving Courts Improvement Project; Iowa Accountability Project; and Emergency Protection Orders Project
- Oversight of court interpreter services and compensation
- Business court liaison and case assignment coordinator
- Organization and facilitation of meetings for: district court administrators and SCA directors; ADA Coordinators; and Districts' Court Interpreter Schedulers.
- Preparation of Administrative Directives of the State Court Administrator, as needed
- Legislative fiscal notes analyst
- Respond to citizen complaints and inquiries about the state courts
- General assistance to the State Court Administrator

Current Projects/Initiatives

- Preparation for and management of quarterly meetings of the Judicial Qualification Commission
- NCSC Courts Statistics Project
- Electronic Warrants Project
- Statewide standards and certification for "Children in the Middle" program along with creation of online offering
- Self-help forms for minor guardianships
- Rollout of electronic recording systems for juvenile proceedings
- Translation of essential court forms into Spanish
- Guidelines for Clerk's Who Assist Self-Represented Litigants
- Updating of weighted caseload formulas for judges, clerk & DCA staff, and judicial magistrates
- Compiling annual courthouse security reports from each county

Director of Finance

- Budget preparation and management (previous year, current year, next year)
- Accounting and auditing
- Processing claims payable
- Payroll system administration
- Oversight of judicial retirement funds
- Collections coordination
- Process equipment ordering requests

- Fixed asset tracking
- Processing of employee travel payments
- Processing of interpreter claims
- Financial liaison with Clerk's manual and Clerk's accounting manual committees
- Coordinate finance data requests with JBIT staff
- Oversee judicial retirement payments and administration
- Coordinate and oversee Clerk of Court, judicial branch, and judicial retirement audits
- Prepare annual legislative reports annually (monthly, semi-annual, and annual reports in excess of 20 reports per year)

- Preparing Fiscal Year 2021 Spending Plan Submission (including calculation of the number of funded FTE's available in fiscal year)
- Processing fiscal year 2020 accounting work
- Working With Auditors on current year audits and preparing for next year's audits
- Working With Human Resource Staff On Transition Of Duties From Finance Staff to Human Resources Staff
- Coordinating ability to pay team within state court administration to offer guidance to Clerk and district court administration staff
- Answering legislative questions and data requests related to judicial branch collections and outstanding debt

Director of Information Technology

Areas of Responsibility

- Provide technology vision and leadership
- Provide strategic and tactical planning, development, evaluation, and coordination of the information and technology systems
- Facilitate communication between staff, management, vendors and other technology resources within the organization
- Oversee the Case Management Systems including local area networks and wide-area networks
- Oversee management of multiple information and communications systems and projects, including data, e-mail, document management, workflow, imaging and office automation
- Design, implement and evaluate the systems that support end users in the productive use of computer hardware and software
- Oversee and evaluate system security and back up procedures

- Over 80 active projects that affect Application and Systems (EDMS, Iowa Courts Online, Case Management, etc.), Infrastructure, Information Sharing, Security, customer service, etc.
- Examples:
 - Self-help interactive online forms
 - Online Dispute Resolution

- E-Search warrants
- E-Reminder Text Notices
- Case Management Database for Problem-Solving Courts
- Emergency Protective Orders
- lowa Courts Online Summary page
- Co-location data center for redundancy
- EDMS document retention
- Case Management database redundancy
- Windows 7 upgrade to 10

Director of Governmental Affairs

Areas of Responsibility

- Develop and implement year-round legislative strategies, including outreach
- Analyze, monitor and report on legislative activity
- Develop strategies to achieve legislative goals, develop and defend legislative positions, and coordinate legislative testimony
- Attend and actively participate in legislative committee and informational meetings for the judicial branch
- Perform lobbying activities, develop and maintain legislative relations to support successful passage of judicial branch legislation
- · Create and make presentations to a wide variety of audiences

- Review of legislative proposals and prepation of legislative agenda
- Preparation of informational forms regarding judicial branch initiatives for legislators
- Individual meetings with legislators during interim (walk away from meetings with numerous questions that require follow-up)
- Responding to inquiries from legislators and caucus staff
- 901C.3 Expungement
 - Practical implementation of legislation and working with legislators on follow up or clean up legislation
 - Assisting to make implementation plan based on report
- Working on CJDI survey, research, and communications, data requests, and meetings with legislators
- Rural courts initiative meetings with clerks in every district
- Communicating with lobbyists regarding legislative issues
- Reading bills as they are filed determining whether there would be an impact on the judicial branch
- Communicating with legislators regarding judicial branch budget, live bills, prefiled bills, and coming up soon, amendments
- Attending subcommittee and committee meetings
- Working with judicial branch team to provide data and statistics to legislators

 Working with the judicial branch Team to prepare a budget presentation for the Justice Approps committee

Legal Counsel to State Court Administrator

Areas of Responsibility

- Chief legal advisor to the State Court Administrator
- Legal advisor to:
 - SCA employees
 - Judicial Officers
 - District Court Administrators
 - Clerks of Court
 - Juvenile Court Officers
 - Draft policies and administrative directives
- Respond to subpoenas of judicial branch employees
- Respond to legal challenges to court policies and SCA directives
- Review/draft contracts and MOUs related to state or district court administration
- Provide support and information related to proposed legislation as needed
- Coordinate/monitor legal advice and litigation with Attorney General's office
- Advise or respond to open records requests
- Represent the SCA Office in meetings and on committee with external partners
- Staff committees

Current Projects/Initiatives

- Legal research and policy development related to:
 - Retention and destruction of case records
 - Review and approval of Judicial Branch contracts
 - Internal procurement procedures
 - Payment of costs related to litigants and case adjudication
- Ongoing litigation support for our counsel at the Attorney General's office
- Email retention policy for Judicial Branch
- Employee Confidentiality agreement
- Research legal questions related to bail bonds, record access, credit cards, social media, court debt, firearms, surplus property, et. al.

Director of Human Resources

- Employee and labor relations
- Collective Bargaining
- Benefit enrollment and administration
- Compensation structure and administration
- Leave administration, workers compensation and unemployment insurance administration
- HRIS, payroll and timekeeping system administration

- Discipline and grievance administration
- Employee Branding

- Training and implementation of revised Employee Handbook/HR Policies/Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Updating Supervisors Manual
- Implementing electronic time-keeping and electronic leave system
- Reviewing and modifying Service Award Program as determined to be appropriate
- Reviewing and updating Clerk of Court classification and compensation as determined to be appropriate
- Court reporter attraction, recruitment, and retention initiative
- Reviewing court reporter job descriptions for completeness and accuracy and determining whether related employee policies are being consistently applied throughout branch
- Reviewing, revising job descriptions and utilizing comparable worth guidelines to determine pay grades.
- Developing and implementing training and development through different phases for supervisors, employees, new employee orientation, leadership academy, and the Institute for Court Management.
- Imaging all human resource files into electronic system
- Developing and implementing on-boarding process for new employees
- Developing and implementing New Employee Orientation Program
- Holding new employee benefit calls every 3 weeks
- Implementing a Performance Management System Judicial Wide
- Developing and implementing an employee background check policy
- Workforce engagement- Conducting an organization wide employee culture/satisfaction survey
- Recommending policies and methods that help our workforce have clear goals, feel trusted and empowered, receive regular feedback, development of new skills, and recognition for achievement

Director of Judicial Education and Training

- Assess need, design, deliver and evaluate appropriate and timely training to all judicial branch staff
- Provide technical support for educational products and services for judicial branch staff education
- Provide project management for DUC (development and unification committees) and other relevant committee or projects
- Provide strategic planning to support innovation and create sustainable models for educational programs and events for branch employees
- Provide event management of all judicial conferences, special academies and supportive services for collaborative events

- Implementing recommendations from administrative training needs assessment in partnership with the Clerks and Administrative Development and Unification Committee (DUC), piloting subject matter expertise committees, and providing project management support
- Creating an online, competency-based training program for Juvenile Court Services (JCS) regarding the detention screening tool in collaboration with Criminal Justice Institute and the Director Of Juvenile Court Services
- Developing and education training plan for the IDA in collaboration with the Director of JCS and outside stakeholders
- Facilitating a comprehensive review of new judicial officers training via administrative work group
- Ongoing grant administration
- Updating of the Benchbook
- Evaluating the completed "Empowering Justice" leadership series and identifying next steps
- Creating a sustainable continuum of education infusing the subjects of implicit bias and procedural fairness for all branch employees
- Evaluating and revising New Employee Orientation (NEO) an in-person onboarding process for all new JB employees in collaboration with HR
- Planning 2020 Conferences including agenda and logistics
- Completing contract with external vendor for 2021 conferences
- Evaluating new, user-friendly online learning management systems in partnership with IT Director
- Designing management training series in partnership with HR and other state agencies.
- Beginning development of district-level guardianship and conservatorship online training for judges
- Operationalizing the 5 year educational plan, including:
 - developing an executive summary to provide transparency for all stakeholders
 - o continuing needs assessment process of JCS in the data collect through focus groups
 - developing policies, procedures, and standardized form for education events
 - o piloting a user-friendly web-based conference registration process
 - o created a brochure to define judicial educations role in the branch
 - reorganizing staff responsibilities and building competency in identified methodologies to meet the needs of the field

Director of State Facilities

Areas of Responsibility

- Management of Judicial Branch Building
- Supervision of maintenance and security staff
- Management of physical assets
- Development of capital budget requests
- Coordinator for Emergency Planning
- Consultant programming, planning and design for new courthouse construction and renovation

- COOP/COG for the Judicial Branch Building and a COOP template for counties
- Pandemic Plan
- Statewide conversion to VOIP phone system

- Employee training regarding safety and security
- Implementation of courthouse security guidelines
- Uniform standards for courthouse design
- Creation of a Judicial Learning Center

State Court Administrator Field Liaison

Areas of Responsibility

- Cultivate/Manage internal and external customer relationships
- Communicate status, approach, and effects of various projects/initiatives
- Field questions and requests concerning Judicial Branch
- Marshall internal resources as necessary to provide customer service
- Initiate customer outreach (e.g., town hall meetings, customer conferences, and meetings)
- Serve as expert resource for accessing public information (Courts online and reports)

Current Projects/Initiatives

- Staff support for the planning, implementation, changes, documentation, and ongoing support of Digital Audio Recording
- Developing and Unification Committee team member tasked with assembling and promoting increased trust within the branch by creating processes to standardize and unify practices of branch employees across county and district lines, and balancing the need for training with the availability of existing staff to perform multiple tasks
- Promoting and facilitating implementation of remote reporting, judging and interpreting technology
- Support staff for implementation of and compliance with jury management policies; examining juror utilization rates and jury panel costs by county and recommending changes to size of jury panels summoned and terms of service
- Support staff for County Records Scanning project; research, RFP, vendor selection, and implementation
- Support staff for Electronic Search Warrants rules committee
- Staff support for E-Reminder Advisory Committee tasked with integrating text messaging and email into case management system to notify parities of the date and time of upcoming court hearings
- Staff support for Online Dispute Resolution pilot; research, RFP, vendor selection and implementation
- Courthouse Security Audit actively work with counties to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements

Director of Iowa Accountability Program

Areas of Responsibility

Provide leadership and program oversight to develop strategies and policies related to various special projects within State Court Administration to improve the handling of domestic abuse (DA) cases (particularly those involving African Americans), access to justice issues, self-represented litigants, implicit bias, best practices, etc.

- In cooperation with the Deputy State Court Administrator, work with judges, court staff, and stakeholder groups to develop and recommend policies, strategies, programs and procedures to improve access to justice.
- Manage federal Improving Criminal Justice Response grant funds
- In cooperation and coordination with the Director of Judicial Education and Training, develop and facilitate training programs for judicial officers, other court staff, DA service providers, law enforcement, and other stakeholder groups.
- Cultivate and manage community collaborations by providing community outreach and facilitating education and awareness trainings to enhance the public's knowledge of and access to the courts
- Collaborate with DA partners, law enforcement, department of corrections, and other local and state partners
- Serve as technical resource regarding community engagement between local, state and federal agencies
- Serve as expert resource on DA issues for the statewide Access to Justice Commission as well as community leaders (particularly for communities of color)

Develop, implement and administer federal grants to oversee initiatives related to our areas of responsibility by:

- Enhancing court procedural justice practices
- Establishing local courthouse-based points-of-contact (Access to Justice Coordinators) for victims of DA
- Exploring expansion of Black Hawk County's Domestic Violence Court
- Validating IAP Restitution Project's Financial Ability Assessment Tool
- Participating in Iowa Court Debt Initiative Committee
- Evaluating how the courts are addressing the needs of both internal and external customers (e.g., court observations, focus groups, surveys, etc.).
- Developing and providing innovative programming and training to educate judicial officers and other court staff:
 - Judicial mentoring program
 - Verbal defense and influence (de-escalation) customer service training
 - Standardized, interactive training rubric on core competencies necessary for working with DA cases/people in trauma
 - Briefings on key state and national DA cases

Director of Iowa Children's Justice

- Develop strategies to advance the quality and improve the consistency of court process for families and children in the child welfare system
- Advise on policies and procedures that impact the management and administration of child welfare cases

- Collaborate with child welfare partners
- Represent the Judicial Branch in liaison activities with federal agencies
- Manage federal Court Improvement funds
- Serve on statewide committees:
 - Child Protection Council
 - Child and Family Service Review Team
 - Cultural Equity Alliance
- Primary staff for Children's Justice State Council
- Primary staff for Iowa Children's Justice Advisory Committee
- Statewide contact for Family Treatment Courts
- Plan training programs for judges, attorneys and other child welfare system professionals

- Implementing and administering three Court Improvement Project grants and three federal discretionary grants
- System Improvement Efforts:
 - o Training for judges, attorneys and other professionals in the child welfare system
 - Educational collaborative for youth in out-of-home care
 - Polk County Trauma Audit Advisory Committee
 - Summer fellowships for 2nd year law students
 - Court process reviews and assessments for federal and state compliance and implementation of best practices
 - Task Force on Quality Legal Representation
 - Advisory group for the improving legal representation for incarcerated parents
 - Task Force on the new Family First Prevention and Services Act
- Family Treatment Courts
 - On-going training for FTC Teams
 - Continuous quality improvement efforts
 - Planning informational program at the Capitol for legislators to attend and learn more about family treatment courts

Director of Special Crimes Against Persons Program

- Serve as expert resource regarding crimes against persons including processes that balance public safety needs with constitutional protections
- Serve as expert resource regarding uniform orders, promulgation of civil protective, criminal no contact orders and their transmission to applicable state and federal databases
- Serve as technical resource for the court's community coordinated response to crimes against
 persons for external practitioners including but not limited to various state agencies, state policy
 advisory bodies, and practitioners at state and local levels
- Monitor, research, identify, and create effective, procedurally fair policy and practice interventions that are consistent with ethical requirements of the courts

- Emergency Protective Order Pilot Project
 - Final Report of the EPO Advisory Committee submitted to State Court Administrator, Deputy State Court Administrator December 19, 2019;
 - EPO work will continue in Pilot Community and JBIT to further establish precise petitioner access and all associated processing methods;
 - Completing discretionary grant application for three years of funding to aid in a further, multidisciplinary effort to test and implement full process in Pilot Community, then begin implementation and expansion to other counties and districts;
- Serving as staff support to the following committees:
 - o lowa Court Rules Ch 4 Ad Hoc Advisory Workgroup Project complete pending supreme court approval.
 - Pro Se Petitioner Handbooks
- State Court Administrator's liaison to Iowa Domestic Violence Death Review Team;
 Iowa's Multidisciplinary Human Trafficking Work Group

Research, Policy and Planning Analyst

- Provides research support for and coordinates judicial branch planning and evaluation efforts for various projects and initiatives as assigned.
- Monitors, analyzes, and reports on emerging trends and issues related to the courts and justice system.
- Develops research methodologies to evaluate court programs and policies to support continuous improvement.
- Prepares and/or oversees the development of annual and periodic statistical reports, fact sheets, and other publications developed for internal and external audiences, including the creation and updating of such reports for posting on the judicial branch website.
- Works with Judicial Branch Information Technology (JBIT) staff to respond to ad hoc and routine
 data requests, as needed, and to recommend and develop improvements to existing standard
 statistical reports and the creation of new standard statistical reports.
- Writes grant applications and reviews grant applications from other judicial branch employees to ensure compliance with funding source requirements and judicial branch policies.
- Administers grants awarded, as needed, and supports other judicial branch staff who administer grants.
- Prepares fiscal notes on bills in the legislature that might impact the judicial branch.
- Prepares reports and responds to requests for information and statistics from judicial branch offices and outside organizations, as needed.
- Provides support to committees, as determined by the Deputy SCA, including the preparation of agendas, minutes, reports, and action plans to support various judicial branch initiatives.
- Serves as the project leader responsible for conducting both in-house and contracted workload and time studies.

- Develops, maintains, and updates decision-making tools related to workload formulas and time studies. Annually updates the statistics in workload formulas and refines or enhances the formulas as needed.
- Develops and conducts surveys of court personnel and external stakeholders and then analyzes and presents the results to a variety of internal and external audiences.

- With the 2019 annual report now complete, begining preparation for the drafting of a 2020 annual report.
- Developing proof of concept for a performance dashboard with initial emphasis on district court filings, dispositions, contempts, and probation revocations.
- Providing analytical and planning support for problem-solving court/drug court grant funded activities.
- Continuing to plan activities to support implementation of new background check requirements for guardianships and conservatorships.
- Updating statistical reports and caseload formulas:
 - Update Judges Workload Formula (2020)
 - Update Clerks/DCA staff workload formula (2020)
 - Update Magistrates workload formula (2021)
 - Creation of new stats reports based on NCSC Model Stats Reports
- Workforce Engagement Advisory Committee: Serving as member and support staff for committee
- Criminal Debt: Supporting work of others, primarily with data and analytical needs related to criminal debt and ability to pay
- Assisting with planning activities associated with implementation of new expungement law
- Serving as co-lead on effort to begin aligning lowa court data with the National Open Court Data Standards.
- Providing assistance with preparation of fiscal notes

Director of Juvenile Court Services

- Leads strategic planning and implementation of policies, programs, and procedures that align with evidenced-base practices
- Oversees the development and implementation of continuous quality improvement plans for serving youth in the juvenile justice system
- Cooperates with leaders in other agencies to promote evidenced-based best practices in educational, vocational, and other treatment services for youth
- Coordinates with the judicial branch's Director of Human Resources to plan and manage the JCS budget effectively and monitor expenditures
- Serves as champion for new tools and resources for JCOs in the field
- Coordinates efforts to meet the training needs of JCS staff and determines the appropriate method
 to deliver and meet statewide needs through coordination with the judicial education division and
 by utilizing various stakeholders and subject matter experts

- Develops expertise in the judicial branch's case management database and data input policies and practices among JCS staff
- Plays a leadership role in promoting cultural competency and efforts to reduce implicit bias among
 JCS staff and other stakeholders in the juvenile justice system
- Cooperates with the judicial branch's chief JCOs, the research, policy and planning analyst and, as appropriate, CJJP to: regularly obtain and utilize data on the nature of the juvenile delinquency caseload outcomes for youth in each judicial district to identify and understand trends and differences among judicial districts and to help monitor and evaluate the impact of changes in JCS policy and practices
- Regularly utilizies data to monitor and evaluate mental health and substance abuse treatment services for youth
- Oversees quality assurance functions in the practices of JCOs and service providers
- Oversees the implementation and maintenance of uniform data definitions and data entry policies

- Overseeing the development and implementation of the juvenile justice IV-E 5-year Prevention Plan,
 Parts I & IV
- Monitoring legislative activity regarding the possible transfer of GS/COS and Group Care Funds to the Judicial Branch
- Coordinating efforts to enhance Case Management in preparation of FFPSA
- Collaborating with DHS and stakeholders to improve the quality and effectiveness of residential treatment services for juvenile justice youth
 - Group Care RFI
 - Group Care MOU
 - STS strategic planning
 - STS manage reduced population
- Implementing SMART Recommendations
- Developing a statewide Case Management Plan
- Identifying elements needed for Performance Dashboard
- Developing and implementing uniform statewide policies and practices that maintain fidelity to best practices
 - o EPICS
 - o IDA
 - DST
 - Re-Entry
 - Case Planning
 - Quality Assurance
 - o SPEP
- Reviewing current and needed Assessment Tools
 - o IDA
 - DST
 - Florida's Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)

- Decision Matrix
- Developing and implementing clear goals and measurable objectives for JCS
 - Establishing JCS priorities
- Developing strategies to address Racial and Ethnic Disparities within Juvenile Court Services
 - Exploring opportunities to expand Pre-Arrest Diversion
- Coordinating with education department to establish 5- year training plan to ensure JCS training needs are met
 - Developing standard curriculum with electives
- Reviewing contracting practices and develop cost containment measures
- Developing JCO Certification

Problem Solving Courts Coordinator

- Leads the effort to help lowa's problem solving courts implement and maintain nationally recognized evidence-based best practices.
- Helps coordinate the effort to develop standard data collection and data entry protocols to help
 problem solving court coordinators and judges more effectively manage their cases, to assess
 compliance with best practice standards, and to evaluate and compare the effectiveness of lowa's
 problem solving court programs.
- Helps coordinate the effort to develop standard case management reports for use by program coordinators and judges and the effort to develop standard statistical reports that measure program performance compared to the adopted performance measures and benchmarks.
- Identifies grant opportunities that could support the establishment or improvement of lowa's problems solving courts, writes or oversees the writing of grant applications to procure such grants and, when such grants are obtained manages or oversees the management of those grants.
- Coordinates annual meetings for lowa's problem solving court teams and the development and maintenance of list serve/blog for problem solving court professionals in lowa.
- Represents lowa at national meetings of state problems solving court coordinators.
- Assists local program coordinators and judges in monitoring compliance with laws, court rules, directives, policies and procedures.
- Recommends and coordinates training specific to the operation of problem solving courts.
- Provides assistance and support to local and state committees involved in the development, oversight, and improvement of problem solving courts.
- Works with the Judicial Branch Information and Technology department in creating, modifying, and/or improving the technology associated with problem solving courts operations.
- Drafts and proposes changes to the Iowa Code and Court Rules, as needed, for consideration by the State Court Administrator.
- Performs research and prepares memoranda on special projects, including the drafting of proposed amendments to the court rules and judicial branch policies as assigned by the State Court Administrator.

- Completing an assessment or inventory for existing problem-solving courts in regards to compliance with the 10 key components and national best practice standards
- Establishing a statewide steering/oversight committee
- Developing best practice standards for lowa that are based on the national standards
- Developing an application for new problem-solving courts
- Establishing a certification process for existing problem-solving courts
- Planning and implementing a statewide summit for problem-solving court professionals
- Forming a statewide professional association for problem-solving courts
- Developing a case management system for each type of problem-solving court
- Assisting in the administration and implementation of grants opportunities that are intended to enhance and support problem-solving courts